

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 L-03 DHA-02 INR-07 /042 W

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R 271052Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7396

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STADIS//////////

FOR PETER LANDE, NEA/PAB FROM PETER CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PK, PINT

SUBJECT: AMERICAN SEAMEN'S ATTEMPT TO GATHER EVIDENCE IN
KARACHI

REFERENCE: A. NAVLEGSVCOFF YOKOSURA JA (250931Z AUG 76) SENT
INFO JCS/SECDEF WASHDC; B. ISA MEMO OF 21 JUNE 1976, SUBJ:
FOREIGN TVL

1. IN DECEMBER 1975 SEVEN AMERICAN NAVAL PERSONNEL WERE
ARRESTED AT SEA ABOARD USS MIDWAY AFTER SHIP HAD DEPARTED
PAKISTANI TERRITORIAL LIMITS. ACCUSED ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE
PURCHASED IN KARACHI NARCOTICS (HASHISH AND OPIUM) THAT THEY
SMUGGLED ABOARD SHIP IN PACKAGES ALLEGEDLY SEALED AND PURCHASED
IN KARACHI SOUVENIR SHOPS. HEARINGS BEING HELD IN YOKOSURA,
JAPAN. DEFENSE COUNSEL HAVE OBTAINED MILITARY COURT SANCTION FOR
DEFENDANTS, COUNSEL, AND PROSECUTOR TO TRAVEL TO KARACHI TO
COLLECT EVIDENCE IN THE CASE. ACCUSED MAINTAIN THAT ONLY BY
PERSONALLY RETURNING TO KARACHI CAN THEY IDENTIFY SHOPS WHERE
THEY BOUGHT ARTICLES IN WHICH DRUGS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN
SECRETED. COURT'S RULING GRANTS PERMISSION TO TRAVEL AT USG EX-
PENSE PENDING GOP APPROVAL. REFTEL GIVES FULL BACKGROUND ON CASE.

2. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO US MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN
JAPAN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS OF SUCH A VISIT TO
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KARACHI. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WANT TO INCUR THE ONUS OF OBSTRUCT-

ING THESE MEN'S DUE PROCESS RIGHTS. WE HAVE THEREFORE REQUESTED CLEARANCE FROM THE MFA TO ALLOW THE MEN TO ENTER PAKISTAN. WE HAVE TOLD THE US MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT IF PERMISSION IS GRANTED, THE MEN WILL HAVE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR CONSULATE, THE DEA REPRESENTATIVE, AND THE PNCB.

3. I WANTED YOU TO KNOW OF THIS CASE SINCE IT HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR CAUSING US SOME EMBARRASSMENT IN KARACHI. WE WILL FOLLOW IT CLOSELY HOWEVER, AND IF THE MEN DO RECEIVE PERMISSION TO ENTER PAKISTAN WE WILL INSIST THEY FOLLOW THE CONSULATE'S GUIDANCE. I ALSO WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW OF MY CONCERN OVER HOW THE CASE WAS HANDLED IN THE DEPARTMENT. AT ONE POINT A MESSAGE (REF B) FROM DOD/ISA TO THE US MILITARY IN JAPAN SAID THAT BOTH DOD AND STATE APPROVE TRAVEL OF THE ACCUSED TO PAKISTAN. I AM NOT SURE WHO IN THE DEPARTMENT GAVE THIS CLEARANCE, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO ENSURE THAT STATE CHECK WITH US IN SUCH CASES BEFORE GRANTING CLEARANCE. WE WOULD OF COURSE HAVE PREFERRED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK GOP APPROVAL BEFORE WE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION THAT THE SEAMEN AND THEIR COUNSEL WERE SEEKING VISAS.
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